

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (Currently Amended) An image taking device for taking an image of an object by focusing reflected light from the object on a light receiving portion, comprising:

~~a measuring portion for measuring that measures~~ a distance between the object and the image taking device; and

~~an exposure control portion for controlling that controls~~ exposure time of the light receiving portion upon taking an image in accordance with the measurement result of the measuring portion; and

an image taking control portion that controls so as to take an image of the object if it is determined by the measuring portion that the distance between the object and the image taking device is within a predetermined range.

2. (Currently Amended) An image taking device for taking an image of an object by focusing reflected light from the object on a light receiving portion that converts the light into an electric signal, comprising:

~~a measuring portion for measuring that measures~~ a distance between the object and the image taking device; and

~~a gain control portion for controlling that controls~~ an output gain of the electric signal in accordance with the measurement result of the measuring portion; and

an image taking control portion that controls so as to take an image of the object if it is determined by the measuring portion that the distance between the object and the image taking device is within a predetermined range.

3. (Currently Amended) The image taking device according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising[[::]] a posture determining portion ~~for determining that determines~~ whether or not the subject surface of the object is perpendicular to an axis along a shooting direction of the image taking device; and ~~an image taking control portion for controlling so as to taking an image of the object if it is determined by the posture determining portion that the subject surface of the object is perpendicular to an axis along the shooting direction of the image taking device~~, wherein the measuring portion measures distances between the image taking device and at least two points

in the subject surface of the object as the distance, and the posture determining portion determines whether or not the subject surface of the object is perpendicular to the axis along the shooting direction of the image taking device in accordance with the measurement results of the measuring portion for the points, and the image taking control portion that further controls so as to take an image of the object if it is determined by the posture determining portion that the subject surface of the object is perpendicular to an axis along the shooting direction of the image taking device.

4. (Currently Amended) The image taking device according to claim 3, further comprising a guiding portion ~~for guiding that guides~~ so that the subject surface becomes perpendicular to the axis along the shooting direction of the image taking device by producing different signs between the case where it is determined that the subject surface of the object is perpendicular to the axis along the shooting direction of the image taking device and the case where it is determined that the subject surface of the object is not perpendicular to the same.

5. (Currently Amended) The image taking device according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising[[::]] a still determining portion ~~for determining that determines~~ whether or not the object is still in accordance with the measurement result of the measuring portion that is obtained at an interval of a predetermined time; and an, ~~wherein the~~ image taking control portion ~~for controlling further controls~~ so as to take an image of the object if it is determined that the object is still by the still determining portion.

6. (Currently Amended) The image taking device according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

a background storage portion ~~for storing that stores~~ a background image without the object; and

an extracting portion ~~for extracting that extracts~~ an image that includes only the object by comparing the background image with an image obtained by taking an image of the object, wherein the image taking control portion controls so as to take an image when the distance is not measured by the measuring portion ~~for obtaining that obtains~~ the background image.

7. (Currently Amended) An image taking device for taking an image of a blood vessel pattern of a body, comprising:

a lighting portion ~~for irradiating that irradiates~~ infrared rays to the body;

a light receiving portion ~~for receiving that receives~~ reflected light of the infrared rays from the body;

a measuring portion ~~for measuring~~ that measures a distance between the body and the image taking device;

an exposure control portion ~~for controlling~~ that controls so that exposure time of the light receiving portion upon taking an image becomes longer as the distance measured by the measuring portion is longer; and

an image taking control portion that controls so as to take an image of the blood vessel pattern of a body if it is determined by the measuring portion that the distance between the body and the image taking device is within a predetermined range.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for taking an image of an object by using an image taking device that focuses reflected light from the object on a light receiving portion, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

measuring a distance between the object and the image taking device; and

controlling exposure time of the light receiving portion upon taking an image in accordance with the measurement result; and

taking an image of the object if it is determined in said measuring that the distance between the object and the image taking device is within a predetermined range.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage storing a computer program for controlling an image taking device including a light receiving portion for receiving reflected light from an object and a distance measuring sensor, the computer program which when executed by a computer makes a ~~the~~ computer execute ~~the processes~~ a process comprising:

~~a process for making the distance measuring sensor measure a distance between the object and the image taking device; and~~

~~a process for controlling exposure time of the light receiving portion upon taking an image in accordance with the measurement result; and~~

taking an image of the object if it is determined by the distance measuring sensor that the distance between the object and the image taking device is within a predetermined range.